



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ginning to end the book is as much of a guide to economic literature on special topics relating either to the science or the art as it is an introduction to students of the dogmatic science. While designed primarily for the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, the work is intended "for use in schools and colleges and for general use." It was thus prepared for a somewhat composite audience. Which niche it will fill best is not easily determined. Certainly the book has much for the general reader. Professor Ely is an International Bimetallist, an Anti-monopolist, a Tariff Reformer and a thorough believer in labor organizations, and he presents his reasons fairly, briefly and earnestly. While his style has neither the vigor nor the grace to fascinate, the cogency of his treatment of questions of economic policy holds the attention. Throughout the book a prominence is given to the idea of the State; what it is and what it can and should do for the individual; but the Christian Socialism of which Professor Ely is to many the representative seldom appears. He urges "municipal control" when feasible or necessary to industrial freedom, and a very radical revision and equalization of our system, or lack of system, of taxation. Twenty pages are given to Finance and twenty to the History of Political Economy. The book closes with *A Few Suggestions for Study and Courses of Reading*.

ARTHUR BURNHAM WOODFORD.

CARLO F. FERRARIS. *L'assicurazione obbligatoria, e la responsabilità dei padroni ed imprenditore per gli infortuni sul lavoro.* (Seconda edizione riveduta con aggiunta delle discussioni nella Commissione consultiva sulle istituzioni di previdenza e sul lavoro, e del disegno di legge; "Provvedimenti per gli infortuni sul lavoro.") Roma: Tipografia Eredi Botta. 1890. Pp. 262.

The author is an ardent advocate of the principle of compulsory insurance of workingmen, which is to him a necessary concomitant of the modern industrial develop-

ment. The present book is at once a scientific and practical labor for the cause, thoroughly scientific in treatment, practical in its occasion and purpose. The public attention of Italy had been called, by a series of distressing accidents, to the unfortunate case of the victims and those dependent on them. It was felt that some safeguards were needed, and laws were proposed whereby employers should be liable for damages for all accidents to those in their service. For the proper efficacy of such a remedy a simple, rapid and gratuitous civil process on behalf of the unfortunate or his relations should be provided. Various legislative proposals having had no result, the Minister of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce appointed a deliberative commission to weigh the whole matter. Prof. Ferraris, of Padua, was chosen to present the subject, and his report is the work before us. To it he has added the minutes of the commission and the plan of the law later submitted by the ministry to Parliament, which was discussed, but not finally acted on, before the recent adjournment.

The author finds himself confronted by a condition demanding remedy. Our industrial development, long since passed out of the patriarchal form, has brought with it multiplied dangers to the life and person of the laborer, and discarded the responsibilities of the patriarchal system. That the employer should provide for the workman injured in his service is recognized by some as a moral duty, which they discharge by voluntarily insuring their men. But the recognition is not so general or universal that the workingmen, as a class, are protected. The conditions which cause the accident are those which enable the employer to make his profit. The pecuniary loss, therefore, in providing relief from accident should fall on the employer.

It resolves itself into a question of method. Civil responsibility has many disadvantages. To render it efficacious, it proposes that unless the employer can prove the accident to be due to the fault of the laborer, he must pay

the damages. This promotes social strife, brings the workman as the accuser of his employer before the bar of justice, goads the latter to use every effort to break down the assumption of fault, and, if unsuccessful, to discharging the complainant. This would-be social remedy aggravates social disorders. By putting the whole weight of the indemnity on the shoulders of the employer, it would crush out the small capitalist in many cases. In view of these disadvantages, the author advocates warmly a plan of compulsory insurance which would equalize the burden from year to year and add simply a fixed element to the cost of production, instead of hanging a sword of Damocles over the manufacturer's head. The insurance should extend to all accidents whatsoever, or would be ineffective. It should be at the cost of the producer, and should, in its practical carrying out, make use of existing agencies. The writer believes in direct compulsory insurance, but presents—should his views not be accepted—also the plan of an indirect method, by establishing civil responsibility, and freeing from it such employers as voluntarily insure their men.

The report is clear and succinct, dealing with the problem from the economic point of view, reviewing foreign legislation and finding the path pointed out by Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France. It is an important contribution to the subject, by its simplicity and directness carrying conviction.

The proceedings of the commission show but little dissent from the principle, though modifications were proposed and carried in the details. The principle is adopted clearly and distinctly in the law proposed and the motives which explain it.

The work is a valuable contribution to the so-called social problem. Coming to us from Italy, where State socialism is not blindly accepted, it should receive the thoughtful consideration which the high standing of the author and the gravity of the subject merit.

R. P. F.